

Building a Community of Investigators: The Causal Analysis/Diagnosis Decision Information System (CADDIS)

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Increasingly, the regulatory, remedial, and restoration actions taken to manage impaired ecosystems are based on measurement and analysis of the biotic community. When an aquatic community has been identified as impaired, the cause of the impairment must be determined so that appropriate actions can be taken. The Causal Analysis/Diagnosis Decision Information System (CADDIS) is being developed to help investigators in the states, tribes, and regions access, analyze, and share information useful for causal analyses. This poster describes the collaborative activities that have influenced the design and future plans for CADDIS, including case-study workshops and training sessions. User feedback has been used to direct the project toward developing stressor-response relationships from literature syntheses and regional data sets. By sharing data useful for causal analysis and experiences in conducting these assessments, we aim to build a community of investigators that can confidently identify the causes of biological impairment in streams. By accurately identifying the causes of impairment, we can ensure that management activities are directed toward actions that will truly improve the condition of the nation's waters.

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